

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-18 were rejected; and claims 7 and 14 were objected to.

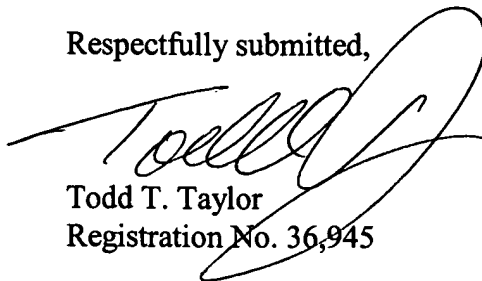
Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,344,409 (Barner). Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 7, and has amended claim 8 to include the subject matter of claim 14. Claims 7 and 14 were each indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, which Applicant has now done by this amendment. Claims 15-18 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 and 8-11 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teach, disclose or suggest the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd T. Taylor
Registration No. 36,945

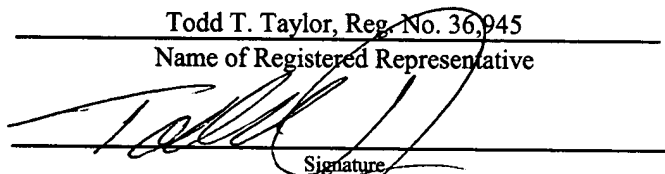
Attorney for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,
on: April 13, 2004.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

April 13, 2004

Date

TTT/ar

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.
142 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 560
Avilla, IN 46710
Telephone: 260-897-3400
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

Enc.: Return postcard